



## Expanding Higher Education's Horizon

*"Education is the great equalizer in our society, and knowledge is the price of admission to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That's why my primary goal as governor is to make Washington a state of learning – a state where every citizen, of every age, is involved in education. A state where learning is truly a way of life."*

– Governor Gary Locke's State of the State Address  
January 12, 1999

**I**N 1999, THE GOVERNOR introduced policies for higher education in Washington State that won approval by the Legislature. A new scholarship program provides financial aid that rewards student merit. Unprecedented college and university enrollments are recognized and supported with additional state funds. Limited tuition increases are at the discretion of public college and university boards, giving institutions the autonomy and flexibility they need.

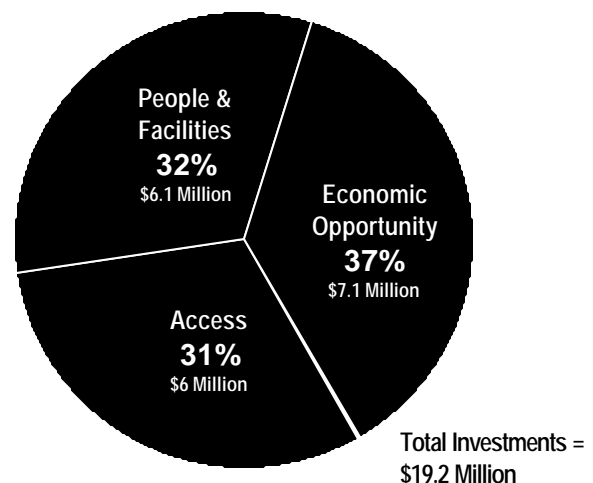
### A New System of Lifelong Learning

The Governor and the Legislature also laid the groundwork for a system of life-long learning and economic opportunity for all of Washington's residents. The Governor's approach added new enrollment opportunities, some of which were specifically targeted to respond to high-demand fields such as health, teaching, and high technology.

As a result, waiting lists will decline and program acceptance rates are expected to increase. In addition, partnerships were created among state community colleges and universities so that courses and degrees are more accessible to students in communities across the state.

By improving access to higher education, making college more affordable, providing more ways to capitalize on economic opportunity, and strengthening the state's investment in people and facilities, this supplemental budget proposal for higher education builds on the strong foundation established in the 1999-01 Biennial Budget.

#### Strategic Investments in Higher Education Improve Access, Expand Economic Opportunities, and Invest in People and Facilities



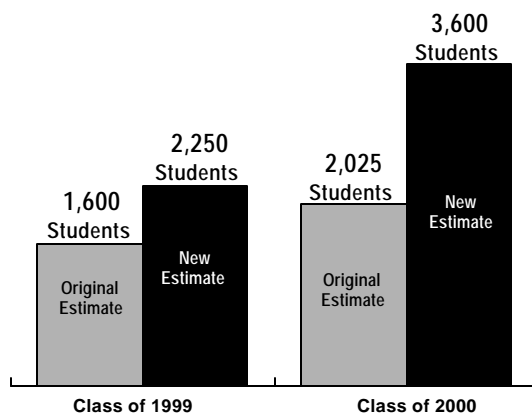
### **Washington's Promise Scholarship: Improving Access and Affordability**

Going to college is part of the American Dream for thousands of high-achieving high school students. Income should not be a barrier. Last year, the Legislature approved Washington's Promise Scholarships. These are two-year scholarships for low- and middle-income high school seniors at the top of their graduating classes. Promise Scholarships may be used at any accredited Washington college or university.

With \$9 million in funding in the 1999-01 budget, the Governor's Promise Scholarship program was able to make awards to 2,250 students in the top 10 percent of each high school's 1999 senior class. In the year 2000, about 3,600 more students in the top 15 percent of each high school's senior class will get scholarship awards.

The Governor's original intent was to provide scholarships for full-time tuition at the community college rate. Because there were more scholars than originally estimated, the award size was less than full tuition. The Governor's supplemental budget funds full tuition scholarships for 1999 and 2000 recipients. Proposed funding: \$4.5 million GF-S.

**More Scholars, More Scholarships:**  
Old Estimates versus New Estimates of Washington's  
Promise Scholarship Student Recipients



### **Responding to Distance Learning Demands**

More on-line classes have been developed by our community and technical colleges. In the last academic year about 6,700 students took on-line courses through Washington Online. Community and technical colleges already successfully offer on-line classes that share curricula, faculty training, and pool their enrollments to ensure full classes. However, students must go to several on-line sites to find their courses, register for classes, and pay for them. This creates unneeded barriers for students and discourages them from using this important new tool.

With primarily one-time funding, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will build a firm technological foundation for a one-stop distance learning system. Funding will be used to purchase computer hardware and the related customized programming that is needed to start this one-stop system. Once established, the system will have a single web site that lists all course offerings and provides students a way to register for classes and pay their tuition on-line. Proposed funding: \$1.5 million GF-S.

### **Capitalizing on Economic Opportunity**

Development of medical technology that can be commercialized has grown significantly in the Spokane area. To capitalize on this growth, the Governor supports Washington State University's (WSU) effort to bring more of its health sciences programs to Spokane. Additional funds are also included for the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute (SIRTI), to continue its commercialization work. Receipt of funds by SIRTI and WSU are conditioned upon their agreeing to a plan for how their activities can most effectively use state resources to achieve their mutual goals. Proposed funding: \$1.025 million GF-S.

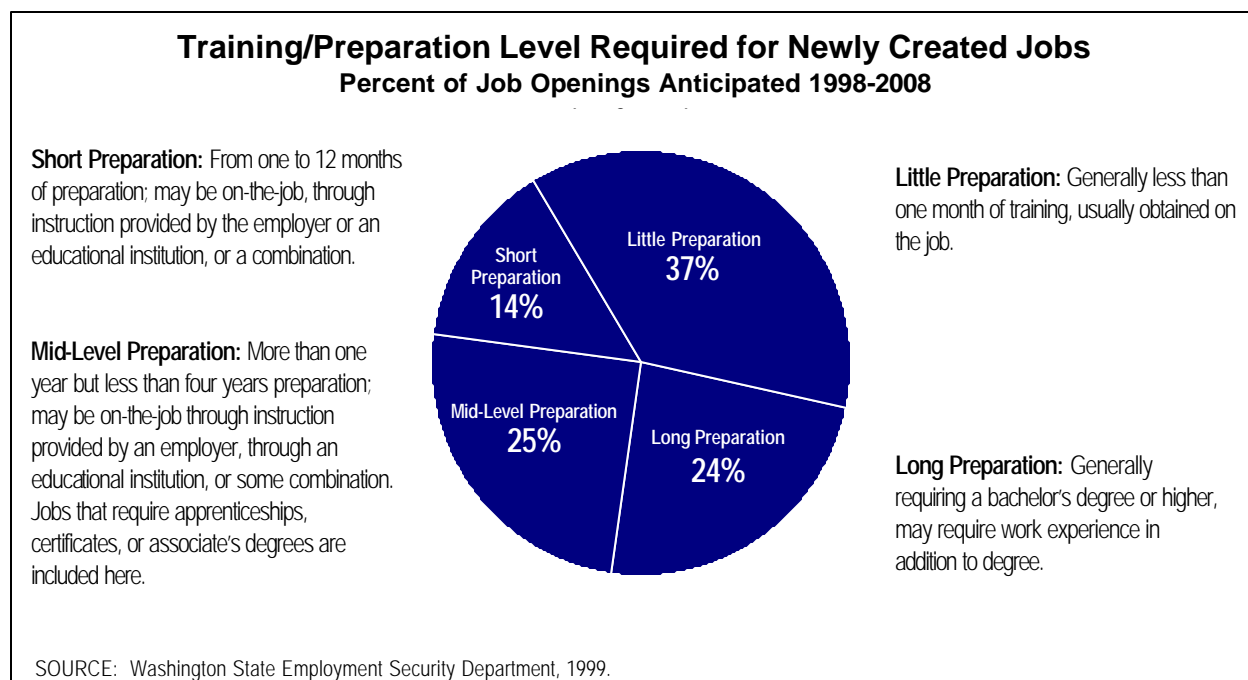
## Aligning Enrollment Funding to Respond to Student Demands

After several years of lower-than-expected enrollment at Eastern Washington University, student enrollment is above the planned level for the 1999-00 academic year and the University now is able to enroll additional students. Meanwhile, enrollment is below expectations at Central Washington University. It is important that enrollment opportunities match student demand. To maximize each institution's ability to provide timely access to Washington students, the Governor's budget transfers the 197 student enrollment increase at Central Washington University for the 2000-01 academic year to Eastern Washington University.

With an enrollment shortfall in 1999-00, and a 377 student enrollment increase pending for 2000-01, Washington State University may not reach its targeted enrollment level for 2000-01. Should the enrollment target not be attained in 2000-01, the Governor's budget requires that any remaining enrollment funds be deposited into the Education Savings Account.

## Closing Washington's Skills Gap

There is a large gap between the jobs created by Washington's robust economy and the amount and type of training provided to Washington's citizens. As a result, employers are frustrated when they try to find qualified employees, and low-wage and dislocated workers are frustrated when they try to get the training they need to help them move up. This supplemental budget creates the Skills Gap Fund at the Work Force Training and Education Coordinating Board so that grants to local workforce councils can be used to build partnerships among businesses, grant makers, and the training system. These partnerships will help lead the effort to create more timely training opportunities for workers while also meeting industry needs in Washington's local communities. Proposed funding: \$1.2 million GF-S.



## Improving High Technology Training Opportunities

High technology industries in Washington are in dire need of highly skilled employees who can work in the software, engineering, and computer science fields. A recent survey by the Washington Software Association found that more than 64,000 workers are needed by Washington's software industry alone in the next three years. In particular, the American Electronics Association Higher Education Task Force notes that "this includes 40,000 positions requiring technology degrees, training, or certification." However, in 1996, Washington produced only 675 graduates in computer science and 75 graduates in business information systems.

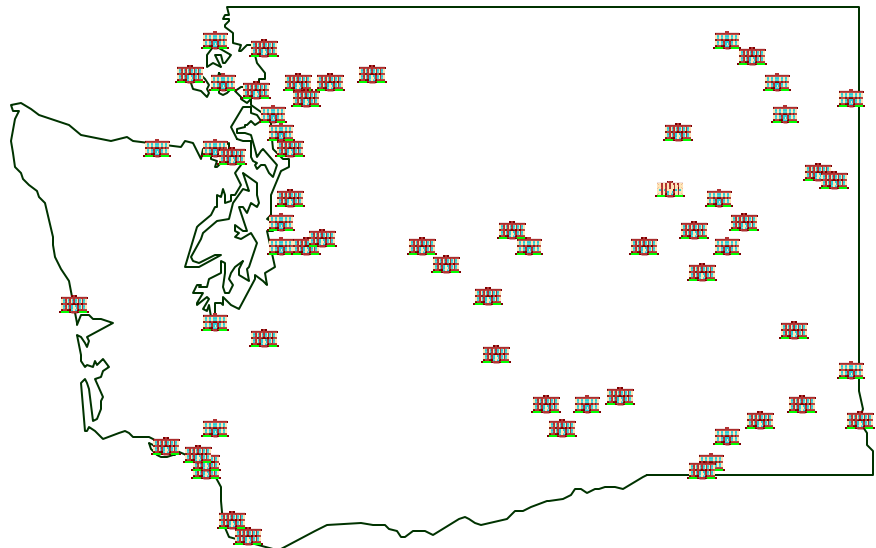
To increase the capacity to provide highly skilled workers for information technology jobs in Washington businesses, \$2.4 million in additional funding will more than double the current budget for one-time information technology grants in Fiscal Year 2001. A \$1.2 million increase for the community and technical colleges raises their funding to \$1.95 million and another \$1.2 million increases funding available to four year universities to \$2.2 million. These matching grants will require cash or in-kind contributions from non-state sources and will prepare students for technology careers throughout Washington State.

## Expanding the K-20 Network to Include Public Libraries

With ever-increasing demands for on-line learning opportunities and better access to the global web of information and technology, the state created the K-20 Technology Network. Funding was provided in the 1997-99 Biennium to develop a system that gives students and educators high-bandwidth Internet access to classrooms and research opportunities.

To build on this important investment, the Governor proposes to connect the state's 68 public library districts to the K-20 Network. With this step, all Washingtonians, including those place-bound and living in rural areas, will have Internet access through their local public library. This will provide residents all over the state better access to their government, to essential public services, and to educational institutions and opportunities. Proposed funding: \$2.05 million GF-S.

**Library System Locations in Washington State**



SOURCE: Department of Information Services

## **Strengthening the State's Investment in Facilities**

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As enrollment at state colleges and universities expands, maintenance and operation of their facilities are critical to ensure quality education is available for Washington's students.

### **Responding to Emergencies**

The Governor's budget includes additional operating funds for Washington State University to take emergency actions that will ensure that campus-wide heat and uninterrupted power is available for the campus through the winter. Facing a system-wide failure of the power plant, WSU signed a lease-purchase agreement to obtain a self-contained boiler to accompany the one sub-standard boiler that remains in its steam plant. This situation called for immediate action since the self-contained boiler will be the sole source of heat for the entire campus should the existing boiler fail. Proposed funding: \$3.6 million GF-S.

In addition, another \$1 million is needed in the operating budget to make emergency repairs to roofs at the Columbia Basin Community College. Without these needed repairs, extensive damage will likely occur to several campus buildings.

### **Maintaining and Operating College Facilities**

Additional funds are needed for the maintenance and operation cost of instructional facilities that the community and technical colleges built to provide needed student services, classroom space, laboratories, and other instructional activities. Even though they were financed with local funds and Certificates of Participation, these facilities are used for instructional and support programs that are the same as those constructed with state bond funds and now supported with state funding for maintenance and operations. Proposed funding: \$670,000 GF-S.

### **Making Needed Technical Adjustments**

Due to a technical error made during budget development, additional funds are requested for the community and technical colleges to fully fund second year pay increases authorized by the Legislature. Washington State University needs an additional \$272,000 to pay AVISTA to maintain its new electrical station. Existing funding for maintenance and operations at the power station is too low.

Western Washington University is budgeted \$220,000 for operating and maintenance costs of the integrated signal distribution system that will form the new backbone for voice, data, video, and signal distribution throughout the campus. In addition, a request for \$312,000 for Central Washington University will restore funding for the risk management revolving fund to its approved level. Proposed funding: \$800,000 GF-S.